

Food Biosecurity – Federal/State/Local Collaborations and Cooperation

Robert D. (Dan) Sowards
Texas Department of Health
February 22, 2002



Bioterrorism

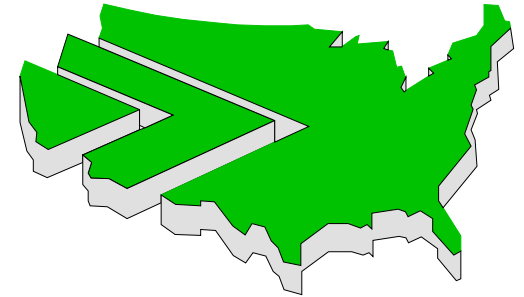
- Most Important Food Safety Issue in Last 30 Years
- Requires Close Cooperation Among All Parties
- Two Phases
 - Proactive
 - Reactive

What is needed? Where are we?



Leadership: Federal Agencies

- Template for paradigm shift
- Training for State and Locals
- Interact with regulated industry on new paradigm and “advice to industry”
- Eliminate duplication and maintain uniformity with states
- Develop new laboratory methodologies
- Establish real time communication links



Role of States and Locals

- First responders in outbreaks and tampering
- Re-examine risk in light of Bio-Security
- Often in better position to
 - Give advice
 - Ensure compliance with current regulations
- Jointly responsible for Food Safety
- States able to react quicker to changes



Current Realities



Federal-State-Industry Communication and Cooperation

- Federal Agencies conferring with industry
 - Alliance for Food Security
- Federal Agencies providing information to State food safety programs
 - FDA Federal Register announcements



State Activities



- New Inspection paradigms
- Traditional food safety regulations with biosecurity elements
- Provide guidance to regulated industry
- Re prioritize establishment inventories
- Update State Emergency Management plans
- Provide guidance to local health officials
- Establish new emergency response teams

State activities- con't

- Expansion of surveillance, laboratory, and epidemiology staff
- Additional Haz-Mat training for EMS
- Coordination of availability and distribution of drugs and vaccines
- New or expanded real time communications links
- Training of investigators in food security
- Expanded analytical capabilities

What do we still need to do?



Federal Agencies



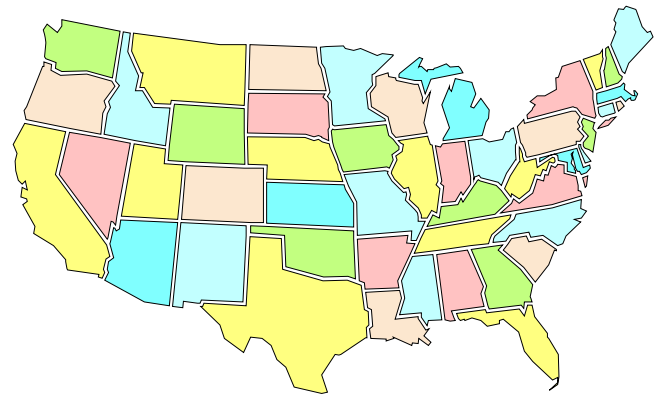
- Complete risk assessments for inspections and inspectional procedures
- Re-prioritize establishment inventories
- Revise Operational Procedure Manuals
- Open communication lines with states
- Assist states to build core capacities

Federal Agencies – con't

- Improve import surveillance at borders
- Modify food inspection contracts to include imported products
- Develop new/improved laboratory methodologies
- Improve coordination and communication between FDA, USDA, and CDC

State Agencies

- Integrate surveillance, epidemiology, and laboratory activities
- Improve internal communications
- Improve relations with Locals



State and Federal Agencies must work closer with regulated industry.

